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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02681 031423Z

66
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W
---------- 072787
R 031127Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8377
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 2681

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO OTHER INTERESTED POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, UR, US, LA
SUBJECT: LAO RECONSTRUCTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 2352
(B) VIENTIANE 1119

1. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA IN PRESS INTERVIEW MARCH 26 DISCUSSED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FOR THE POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD AND DECLARED THAT SOVIET UNION WILL GRANT TO LAOS THE ASSISTANCE THAT COUNTRY HAD PROMISED IN 1962-63, ASSISTANCE WHICH WAS SUSPENDED AFTER THE NLHS MINISTERS DEPARTURE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT CONTACTS WILL BE MADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO EQUILIBRATE BETWEEN THE TWO BLOCKS. ONE OF THE PRIORITIES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF LAOS WILL BE TO FIND MEANS FOR THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO THE OCEAN PARTICULARLY CONNECTING LUANG PRABANG, THAKHEK, SAVANNAKHET AND PAKSE TO THE SOUTH CHINA SEA BY UTILIZING ROUTE 7 THRU THE NUGIA PASS, ROUTE 9 VIA DANANG AND ROUTE 13 VIA BAN METHUOT.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO MENTIONED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE ACROSS THE MEKONG AT VIENTIANE TO SPEED UP COMMERCE
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WITH THAILAND AND REFERRED TO THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF LAOS

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WHICH COULD EASILY ELECTRIFY THE RAIL TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN NONG KHAI AND BANGKOK.

3. THE PRIME MINISTER'S EXPRESSED IDEAS AND THE ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF THE PGNU AGAIN LEADS US TO THE BELIEF THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE VERY USEFUL TO HAVE LAOS RECONSTRUCTION AID BE ORGANIZED OUTSIDE AN OVERALL INDOCHINA CONSORTIUM. COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE REQUESTED PER REF (A).
WHITEHOUSE

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED.

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NNN

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